

CLAIMS

1. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) comprising cleaning means (5, 6) and displacement means (17a, 17b) supported on a framework (18) adapted for location under the water, the arrangement being such that, in use, the displacement means is operative to urge the cleaning means (5, 6) generally upwardly and downwardly of a hull of a floating marine vessel whilst said cleaning means is in contact with fouling on the hull.

2. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 1 in which the assembly comprises pivot means (17a, 17b, 15, 22) which is operative to pivot the cleaning means (5, 6), about a substantially horizontal axis (A-A), generally upwardly and downwardly of the hull.

3. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 2 in which the pivot means (17a, 17b, 15, 22) is operative to pivot the cleaning means (5, 6) about an axis (A-A) which is submerged.

4. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 in which the cleaning means (5, 6) comprises rotatably mounted brush means (5, 6) which, in use, is caused to rotate.

5. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 4 in which the assembly comprises sensing means which is operative to monitor a measure of the resistance to the rotation of the brush means (5, 6).

6. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5 in which the assembly comprises control means which is operative to control the degree of generally upwardly and downwardly directed displacement of the brush means (5, 6).

7. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 1 in which the assembly comprises lateral displacement means (13, 14, 20, 21) which is operative to allow generally lateral displacement of the cleaning means (5, 6) with respect to the hull.

8. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 1 in which the assembly comprises a pair of arms (3, 4), the cleaning means (5, 6) being mounted on the arms (3, 4).

9. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 8 in which the cleaning means (5, 6) is located towards one end of each arm (3, 4).

10. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 8 in which each arm (3, 4) is pivotable generally upwardly and downwardly of the hull.

11. A marine vessel cleaning assembly (1) as claimed in claim 8 in which each arm (3, 4) is pivotable generally laterally of the hull.

12. A method of cleaning the hull of a floating marine vessel comprising displacing cleaning means (5, 6) generally upwardly and downwardly of the hull, and arranging that the cleaning means contacts with fouling on the hull.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12 in which the cleaning means is pivoted generally upwardly and downwardly of the hull.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13 in which relative translational movement of the hull with respect to the pivotal axis (A-A) of the cleaning means (5, 6) is brought about.

15. A method as claimed in claim 12, claim 13 or claim 14 in which the cleaning means (5, 6) is caused to rotate.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15 in which the degree of generally upwardly
5 and downwardly directed movement of the cleaning means (5, 6) is controlled in response to a measure of the resistance to rotation of the cleaning means.